Socialist Worker

Dunnes Strike Special No 2

Mon 27th June

On course to win

Margaret Heffernan is boxed in. She thought that she could keep a few stores open and then wear down the strikers.

Her aim was to starve workers back after a few weeks. But her whole strategy is in a mess.

■ She never expected the degree of solidarity between full timers and part-timers in Dunnes.

Her original offer was designed to divide us. It did not work.

■ She thought that customers would pass the picket lines and so demoralise us. But she forgot that most working people today know all about casualisation.

They see Dunnes as a sign of what could happen in the future in their own jobs and are determined to stop it.

Now the Dept of Social Welfare has decided to grant assistance to most of the strikers.

It is ours by right—and we should protest about the fact that locked out workers in the *Irish Press* were denied these same social welfare payments. But now there is no way she can starve us back to work.

There is only one way that Heffernan can try wriggle out of this powerful strike.

She could say that she will refer the issue to the Labour Relations Commission or the Labour Court and call for the pickets to be lifted.

Remember: the Labour Court is not a neutral referee. It has given many recommendations against workers. It even told Packard workers to do an extra two hours work free for the company when 400 of their fellow workers were being laid off.

We should keep up the pickets until there is a definite offer to vote on.

If Margaret Heffernan wants to go to the Labour Court now that is her affair.

But she forced this strike on us and she can sweat it out until its final outcome.

What is important is that we *WIN* on Sunday opening and zero hour contracts.

This is why we should keep up strong pickets until the end. They help to sustain morale and show our determination.

WHEN WE GO BACK

THERE are already some resolutions being made on Dunnes picket lines about how things are going to change after the picket line.

One woman in the Merchant's Quay branch of Cork told us,

"They are not going to time us going to the toilet.

"We have to ask the supervisor for permission to go and they just keeping looking at their watch until you are back.

"That is going to change".

So too should the general bullying by managers.

Young men with little experience are recruited by Dunnes and, when they are given the title of manager it goes to their head.

They think that they can talk to their staff with no politeness or civility.

That is also going to have to change.

Cheeky scabs

Clondalkin has had to put up with some cheeky scabs. Some of them have taken to sunbathing in front of the shop.

One brave scab even tried to run a trolley at the strikers and the police were called.

But the scabs are now facing defeat as the shops close down.

No one should feel under any obligation to pass the time of day with these people who tried to trample over their fellow workers.

Defeated scab

Waterford is a strong trade union town and does not take too kindly to people passing pickets.

This is what little Ms Tweedy discovered to her cost when she decided to go on a shopping spree at Dunnes.

Ms Tweedy owns one of Waterford's most popular pubs, Peg's Pub. Her father left a pub each to his daughters.

Word went around the town that Ms Tweedy had passed the picket. That night there was hardly anyone in her pub.

It is definitely bad for business to pass a Dunnes workers picket line.

Cork ice cream

An unemployed man in Cork was so impressed by the courage of the Dunnes pickets that he ordered up ice cream for all the pickets.

The man had little money—but the local shop helped out with a discount when they heard where the ice creams were going.

Shows what solidarity is all about.

Solidarity in action

MANY workers have started to raise collections for the Dunnes strikers.

■ In Team Air Lingus, one shop steward collected over £120.

■ In Dublin City University, £70 was gathered.

■ Dublin South Central branch of SWP raised £25 while the Ringsend branch raised £20.

■ Collections are also being organised in Irish Steel and Waterford Glass where a Dunnes strikers has been invited to address the union general meeting.

Meetings and socials

The SWP has organised meetings on 1913-1995 Dunnes Stores: THE FIGHT FOR WORKERS RIGHTS.

Dublin: Tues 27th 8pm North Star Hotel, Amiens St

Clondalkin: Mon 3rd July 8pm Clondalkin Sports & Leisure Centre

Cork: Wed 28th 8pm Connolly Hall

Waterford: Thurs 29th 8pm ATGWU Hall

Athlone: Tues 27th 8pm Royal Hotel

Galway: Thurs 29th 7.30pm Currans Hotel Eyre Sq

Kilkenny: See local posters

Dunnes Social
Strike benefit organised by Waterford SWP
Tues 4th July The Roxy, 9pm
Dermot Power and Simon play a tribute to the Eagles.

Heffernan's jewels

The Dunnes spend more on their jewellery than their workers will get in a life time.

This is the sick result of the class system which rewards the rich.

■ When Theresa Dunne's apartment was burglarised, the thieves managed to take a staggering £100,000 worth of jewellery.

■ When Elizabeth Dunne died recently, she left her jewellery to her daughter. It was worth £250,000.

No figures have yet been released on Margaret or Frank Dunnes wealth.

But Frank Dunne has specialised in buying horses and property.

You can bet that his horses get more in oats than a bag packer at Dunnes gets.

Margaret Dunne goes to Badruth's Palace Hotel in St Moritz every Christmas. This place is so posh that according to the *Irish Times*, "no member of the staff is allowed to move while a guest is moving".

Remember these people have no more ability or talent than any other family in this country. It is just that they were born with silver spoons in their mouths and their Daddy taught them how to exploit worker.

Dunnes shows why the crazy, class divided system of capitalism has to be overthrown.

HOW DO WE GET CHANGE?

Dunnes are bad news. But they are a few more like them. The Irish establishment is full of bullies and cheats.

There is Tony O'Reilly who owns most of our newspapers and earns £70,000 ***a day***. Or Larry Goodman who paid hardly any of his taxes—but gave huge donations to Fianna Fail.

We could go on. But the real question is: ***How*** do we bring some changes so that working class people get the chance of a decent education or decent health care?

The strike at Dunnes points to how we get change.

It shows is how ***powerful*** workers really are. In school and in the press and television, we are always told that we need bosses, who have brains and talent.

But Dunnes can do nothing without their workers. They have not made a penny in the last week.

When Margaret Dunne goes on long holidays, the shops keep running as normal. But when there is a strike nothing moves.

Solidarity

If workers rely on themselves and show solidarity, there is no stopping them.

In the past, many believed that by voting for a party like the Labour Party you could get some change. The idea was that a few politicians would introduce change **for** us.

Of course, they always ended up going back on their promises and doing more for the rich than the poor.

The real way to change this country, is to do it ourselves. If working people united across industry, if they took to the streets in great numbers then the whole of the Irish establishment would be in trouble.

For that we need a party—one that sets as its goal a revolution in Ireland that gets rid of wealth and privilege.

A party that always pushes for the common interests of workers.

This is why it opposes all forms of racism or sectional divisions.

It sets out to challenge the common ideas promoted by the press that are designed to divide workers.

That is what the Socialist Workers Party is about.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Send to SWP P.O. Box 1648 Dublin 8 tel: (01) 872 2682